

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 IO-14 NSCE-00 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11

FAA-00 /124 W

----- 031546

P R 080608Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1152

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, JA, TW, CH

SUBJECT: IS A CIVAIR COMPROMISE POSSIBLE?

REF: TAIPEI 1198

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

TDC FOR J-22

1. WE NOTE THAT EA/ROC WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR FEB 28 VIEWS
PREMIER'S FEB 26 STATEMENT TO LEGISLATIVE YUAN ("THERE IS NO
POSSIBILITY WE SHALL CONCEDE MORE. JAPAN SHALL BE HELD RESPON-
SIBLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES") AS MEANING CHANCES FOR COMPROMISE
ON PART OF GROG ARE NOW "REDUCED TO VANISHING POINT."

2. WHILE GROG HAS STAKED OUT VERY TOUGH BARGAINING POSITION
AND INDEED MAY REFUSE TO BUDGE, WE BELIEVE CCK'S STATEMENT
DOES NOT PAINT GOVERNMENT INTO A CORNER. FACT IS, VARIOUS
STATEMENTS TO PUBLIC AND LY OVER PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE CON-
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FUSED ISSUE TO POINT WHERE VERY FEW IN GOVERNMENT OR OUT

HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT STICKING POINTS ARE. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESS RECENTLY HAS (AGAIN) INCORRECTLY ASSERTED JAPANESE ARE INSISTING CAL AIRCRAFT (RPT AIRCRAFT) ARE TO BE DESIGNATED "CAL (TAIWAN)". THIS CONFUSION OVER TERMS OF DISAGREEMENT MAKES IT QUITE POSSIBLE FOR GROG, IF IT CHOOSES TO DO SO, TO PORTRAY COMPROMISE OF ITS OWN POSITION AS VICTORY OVER JAPANESE.

3. FINAL DECISION OF CCK AND HIS ADVISERS WILL BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THEIR ANALYSIS OF BALANCE OF POLITICAL FORCES ON JAPANESE SCENE. DECISION TO GO ALONG WITH A COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT WOULD POSE LITTLE PROBLEM WITH LEGISLATIVE YUAN AND PUBLIC OPINION. CONVERSELY, DECISION TO BREAK CIVIL AIR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN WOULD BE "ACCEPTED" BY PEOPLE HERE, THOUGH THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE INNER DOUBTS.
MCCONAUGHY

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30 JUN 2005

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